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# The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

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Highlands Festival Singers Director Melissa Stephens played piano during *Hallelujah! We're Back Live!* on Dec. 4 at the United Church in Haliburton. For more photos, see page 3. /Tim Yano special to the Times

## Heat Bank hits \$33,000 at annual fundraiser

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

Heat Bank Haliburton County has officially raised over \$33,000 at their annual fundraising event, held at Rhubarb Restaurant on Nov. 27. "We know everyone's budgets have been so stretched lately with the rising costs," said Tina Jackson, the executive director of the Central Food Network (CFN) and the co-founder of Heat Bank Haliburton County, "we are blown away by the kindness."

The amount is the highest the fundraiser has ever produced, and was accomplished through an online auction and an in-person

evening. Jackson said she saw support from businesses all over the county. "I think the message was clearer this year," she said, "we are all experiencing this more challenging time together."

The fundraiser set the stage for how and where Heat Bank Haliburton County can assist in the coming year. It is their largest intake of donations, with the rest of the year being supported by private donors. "The fundraiser largely covers the costs for our intake staff, who are the first point of contact for anyone reaching out needing assistance," said Jackson, "It also covers grants we can

see FUNDS page 2

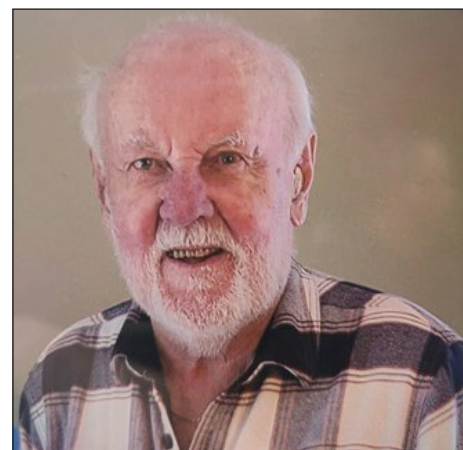
## OPP looking for missing Minden man

The Haliburton Highlands OPP are asking for the public's assistance in locating a missing person. 89-year old Joseph McGee was last seen driving a 2015 dark green Subaru Outback, license plate BTSY 146, on Saturday, Dec. 3, in the Minden area.

He is 5'10, 180 lbs, balding with short grey hair, grey beard, and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing black boots with no laces, blue jeans, a white sweatshirt with the word "cutty" on the chest and a blue collared shirt underneath, a blue fleece jacket with a gold band across the chest, and an Ottawa Senators ball cap.

If you have had any contact with Joseph McGee or have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

At the time of this publication, Dec. 6, this is all the known information. Updates will be



posted on *Minden Times* Facebook page as the story evolves.

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## Filling up for food banks

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Auxiliary Unit hosted their annual Fill A Cruiser event on Dec. 3. They collected at both Easton's Valu-Mart and Dollo's Foodland, who both had pre-made bags for customers to purchase and donate. All food collected will stay in the community. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



# Overdose concerns rampant in Haliburton County

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Public health officials say it's time to re-visit and resurrect a former drug strategy for the region.

To prove the importance of such a strategy, one needs to look no further than the recent opioid overdose alert issued by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR).

The regional health authority issued on Nov. 29 an opioid overdose alert for Haliburton County. It also reached into the City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County areas.

The alert was issued because of a spike in overdoses in October and November. Kate Hall, a health promoter with the district health unit, said there were three ODs during one weekend alone in that timeframe.

"Recent data is showing an increase in youth drug overdoses," she said. "We want to remind parents and guardians of the importance of talking to their children about drugs."

The HKPR District Health Unit's opioid overdose alert automatically flags the problem for community partners and first responders, which triggers enhanced outreach efforts and distribution of naloxone kits.

Naloxone is an emergency medicine that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose until the victim can get to hospital for treatment. Naloxone is recommended to be used in all suspected drug overdoses, due to the possibility of opioid contamination or poisoning.

Opioid users are advised never to use drugs alone. A buddy system can ensure help is at hand in the event of an overdose. Users need to avoid mixing drugs and they should keep a

naloxone kit on hand. You can get a naloxone kit at most pharmacies and needle exchange sites.

Naloxone kits are also available for people who use opioids, as well as their family and friends. These can be picked up at Health Unit offices, local pharmacies, and other locations.

"We don't have any information about the substances related to the overdoses that are being reported," Hall said.

While physicians and nursing staff at the hospital where the OD patient was treated may know what type of drug was prevalent in the individual that caused the crisis, the health authority isn't privy to such information to ensure patient privacy.

"We don't know what the outcomes of these emergency room visits are," she said. "In the data, it's reported as an overdose. It's a person. It's someone's loved one. We don't know what the outcome is."

She said there's new research that delves into the contributions of stimulants in opioid toxicity deaths across public health units in Ontario.

"There is evidence out there to show there are a number of factors that are coming in to play with toxicity and poisoning," she said. "That is increasing and that's a concern because things like naloxone may not work. It may not be effective if we're getting stimulants mixed in."

Hall said conversations have recently taken place toward resurrecting the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy. The strategy was developed years ago but has been in limbo because of the pandemic and a lack of resources to implement it, she said.

"We're revisiting that," she said about the drug strategy. "We're having conversations

with community partners and coming back around the table to make a plan about what can be done."

There are about 35 community or regional drug strategies across the province. The goal of such plans is to respond to substance use-related harms and issues faced by community members, service providers, health care systems, and all levels of government.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy a grant for three years, which started in July 2016 and finished December 2019. Right before the social shutdown brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the website, the purpose of the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes,

Northumberland Drug Strategy (formerly known as the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Drug Strategy) was to facilitate a collaborative, evidence-based approach to minimize the risks and harms associated with substance use in the region.

Having a local drug strategy will ensure coordination and consistency of efforts to address drug use. It will improve communication between multiple stakeholders over a wide geography, and enable the region to better respond to evolving substance use trends and harms as a community.

Hall said an opioid overdose alert indicates such a collaborative approach is required.

"With every alert, the immediacy of the issue comes back," she said.

## Funds raised cover 'tip of the iceberg'

from page 1

offer people for fuel, as well as purchasing firewood when needed."

Jackson noted that while this was a hugely successful fundraiser, with local businesses such as Budget Propane contributing \$6000 to the cause, energy poverty runs rampant year-round. "This is just the tip of the iceberg for energy affordability," she said. With the rising costs of fuel, food, and basic needs, the need for support is higher than ever.

Visibility for the cause is a tangible by-product of the fundraiser, and the holiday season is the busiest time for volunteers to

get involved, noted Jackson. There is currently a need for assistance with splitting and delivering firewood, resource support, and assistance with taxes. If you would like to get involved, visit Heat Bank Haliburton County on Facebook, or call 705-306-0565.

Jackson said she will use the momentum of the fundraiser to propel the cause further into the community. She will be presenting to an Environment Haliburton! Virtual Enviro Cafe on Dec. 13 at 7:30 PM. To view this presentation, go to [www.environmenthaliburton.org](http://www.environmenthaliburton.org)

## Local YWCA supporters will match donations

Thanks to the generosity of Jennifer Fraser, Olivia & Gord James, Liz Hunt of Electric City Real Estate, Ontario Insurance Network, Herod Financial, local Desjardins Insurance agents, Tammy Lee Hanlon, Kirk Norris, Kyle Harrington, Mike Harrington, Todd Spalding and Brian Mulligan, and five anonymous donors, all donations made until December 31st will be matched up to \$88,500! A new matching donation record for YWCA Peterborough Haliburton.

A future free from abuse doesn't belong on anyone's wish list. Yet, on any given night, 6,000+ Canadian women and children sleep in shelters because they aren't safe at home. Give the Gift of Safety for women and children experiencing gender-based violence.

This holiday season, DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT for local women and children! Donations made until midnight on December 31, 2022 will be matched dollar

for dollar up to \$88,500 thanks to our generous matching donors. Donations can be made by donating online at [ywcapeterborough.org](http://ywcapeterborough.org) or by phone at 705-743-3526.

Like most women's shelters in Ontario, YWCA's Crossroads Shelter and Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS), and support programs receive only partial government funding and are unable to cover basic operating costs without turning to fundraising. As demand for gender-based vio-

lence supports continue to grow, the need for funding has reached critical proportions.

Supporters are encouraged to register as holiday sponsors or donate gift cards to provide extra support for local moms and kids. More information is available at [ywcapeterborough.org](http://ywcapeterborough.org).

Submitted





Highlands Festival Singers (HFS) singing *Waltz of the Flowers* on Dec. 4 at their concert, titled *Hallelujah! We're Back Live!* on Dec. 4. The concert showcased many classical as well as contemporary pieces to an engaged audience.



**Singing the songs of the season**

The HFS have performed in various locations around the county, including the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, the Halibuton Legion, Highland Hills United Church in Minden, and this year, the performance was held at the Haliburton United Church. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*



*Hallelujah! We're Back Live!* by the Highlands Festival Singers performed many tunes that were "not your typical Christmas music," as well as a few renditions of classic holiday tunes.



HFS has 30 members in total, with a balance in all vocal ranges. After taking a two year hiatus, the group officially returned this season to kick off their 31st year.

[www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca)

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**(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:  
  
**December 8 – Regular Council Meeting**  
  
**January 12 – Regular Council Meeting**  
  
Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December.  
  
Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [mindenhills.ca/council/](http://mindenhills.ca/council/) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our website at [mindenhills.ca/council/](http://mindenhills.ca/council/). Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Decorate Safely**  
  
• If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled "fire resistant"  
• If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry  
• Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways  
• Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them  
• Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights  
• Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections  
• Follow the package directions on the number of lights sets that can be plugged into one socket  
• Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow  
• Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Come join our team! We are currently looking to fill the following positions:  
  
• Building Inspector  
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• Roads Equipment Operator (temporary full-time)  
• Student Arena Attendants  
• Student Recreation Attendants  
  
Stay informed of current job postings by visiting our website at [mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/](http://mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/) for a list of available employment opportunities.

**MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE**

The Muse, Under the Thin Blue Line, an exhibit by Bob Tunnoch will be on display November 1 – December 20 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Meet the artist in person on December 10 and 17 from 11 am – 3 pm. Admission is by donation. For more information call 705-286-3763 x 542 or email [culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca](mailto:culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca).

**LOW WASTE HOLIDAY SEASON**

Try giving experiences instead of gifts this year. Why not gift an Ontario Parks Day Use Permit or a membership to the Minden Fitness Centre? If you aren't sure what experience they may like, consider making a donation to a charitable organization in their name.



**Shindig  
shines bright**

Guests were treated to a glimpse of the up-coming Nutcracker ballet, which is running Dec. 10 and 11 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Times



Gord Kidd and Friends, featuring Brad Sales, Ian Pay, Jimmie Stewart, Lyn Lawrence and Susan Burgess perform holiday classics to close the show.



Pinch of Salt and Pepper, featuring Jodi Timgren, Anne Wilde and Rob Bersan perform.



Tom Regina delights the audience with a flute performance.



Logan, Kristina, Colleen & Blake



Colleen & Blake would like to thank all their customers for their support and friendship over the past 25 years.

Please welcome Kristina & Logan Percy as the new owners of The Wine Store. Please stop in and say hello.

# THE MUSE, UNDER THE THIN BLUE LINE

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# Green burial: A topic of ongoing conversation

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

What impact will you have after you die? During a presentation by the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS) on Nov. 23 at the Dysart Library, when asked for her reason for interest, one attendee said “I don’t want my legacy to add more poison to the ground.”

The concept of green burial is one that has come to the forefront in recent years. According to the HHGBS website, “green burial practices reflect the fact that death and the birth of new life are central to the functioning of earth’s natural ecosystems.” It is the concept of going back to the natural world in a way that has minimal negative impact on the environment, and maximum outcomes for future natural preservation and growth.

“Over four million gallons of chemicals go into the ground each year with traditional burials,” said Terry Moore, the president of the HHGBS during his presentation on Nov. 23, “and with cremation, over 360,000 tons of carbon dioxide are put in the air annually.”

While Moore noted that these numbers were specific to the United States, he believes Canada is not far off. With green burial, there is no embalming, it is a direct earth burial, there is a focus on ecological restoration and conservation, and an interest in communal burial sites. While many think that cremation is a more natural option, the amount of toxins it releases into the air indicates that this may not be the case; a concerning statistic considering 70-75 per cent of Haliburton County residents select cremation as their preference.

Currently, two municipalities are on board with the concept of green burial. Algonquin Highlands has committed to a section dedicated to green burial at the St. Stephen’s Cemetery in Stanhope, and have created a joint committee with the Green Burial Society, which will start populating in January.

Highlands East has passed a resolution to add green burials to a section of the Deer Lake Cemetery, and Moore hopes this momentum continues with new council members in place.

The HHGBS presented to the Minden Hills Council in



An example of a green burial section in a traditional cemetery, titled Willows Rest, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The topic of green burials has been on the table for years at a municipal level in Haliburton County, with each municipality vying for different alternatives and options. /Photo submitted by Terry Moore.

2019, hoping that they would implement green burial initiatives to their practices within the municipality. “In principle, everyone was on board, it was just a matter of finalizing logistics,” said Moore.

Yet, between the COVID-19 pandemic hitting in 2020, and the majority of senior staff who initially worked with Moore leaving the municipality, green burial has been put on the backburner in Minden Hills. “I’d love to pick it back up again,” said Moore, who has plans to meet with the township cemetery committee to discuss logistics, “in the past,

we discussed looking at Minden land inventory to see if we could make an entirely new space dedicated to green burial. It would be great to discuss this again.”

Moore intends to let the new Minden Hills council settle into their positions before presenting again, and encouraging them to follow-through with this initiative. “We don’t represent a small, niche group,” he said, “we represent a large group, who want alternatives to traditional burial.”

For more information on green burials, and specifically the HHGBS, visit [www.haliburtongreenburial.ca](http://www.haliburtongreenburial.ca)

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## For Mike

**I**HEMMED AND hawed about this week's editorial. As the very new editor of the *Minden Times*, I am trying to follow the rules.

Technically, the *Times* is to cover Minden and Algonquin Highlands news, while the *Echo* takes care of Dysart and Highlands East. Sometimes, as you may have noted, there is crossover. Times when the news breaks barriers, and the impacts affect the county as a whole.

This feels like one of those times.

Mike Iles was the fire chief for Dysart et al for many years. He was also a husband, a son, a father, a grandfather. He loved hunting and fishing and spending time at Haliburton Forest. He was the service manager at Curry Motors, and a graduate of the Haliburton Highlands, from Victoria Street Elementary School to Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

After a battle with lung cancer, Mike passed away at the age of 61 on Nov. 26. His presence has left a hole in our community.

Initially, I thought we could leave this coverage to our partner paper, the *Echo*. The editor of the *Echo*, Vivian Collings, wrote a heartfelt article, which included in-depth interviews from some of Mike's closest friends, and his son, Chris.

I read through the article myself, reflecting on the life and legacy of Mike Iles, and one line really stood out to me. It was from Chris while he was reflecting on his years playing hockey, and how after every game, his dad would buy slushies for the whole team. "He was that Dad. He treated them as if they were all his own kids. He was always there and available for any of us. That was him."

I can vouch for this. I was one of those kids. At that time, it was only myself and one other girl who played on the boys house league hockey team. The two of us got changed in a closet behind the furnace; feeling happy to be lacing up our skates, but often left out of whatever the rest of the team was doing.

Mike always dropped off slushies at our door. After every single game. It was the first time I remember feeling like I was part of a team.

He was a person who cared deeply, felt strongly, and celebrated quietly.

A person like that does not come along every day. The impacts of a person like that can resonate like waves through a community;

disregarding geographical barriers, and settling into the souls of all those who knew him.

Death hits hard in a small town. These past few weeks, we've lost some good ones. The few that come to mind are Ingram Wessell and Curry Bishop. While I

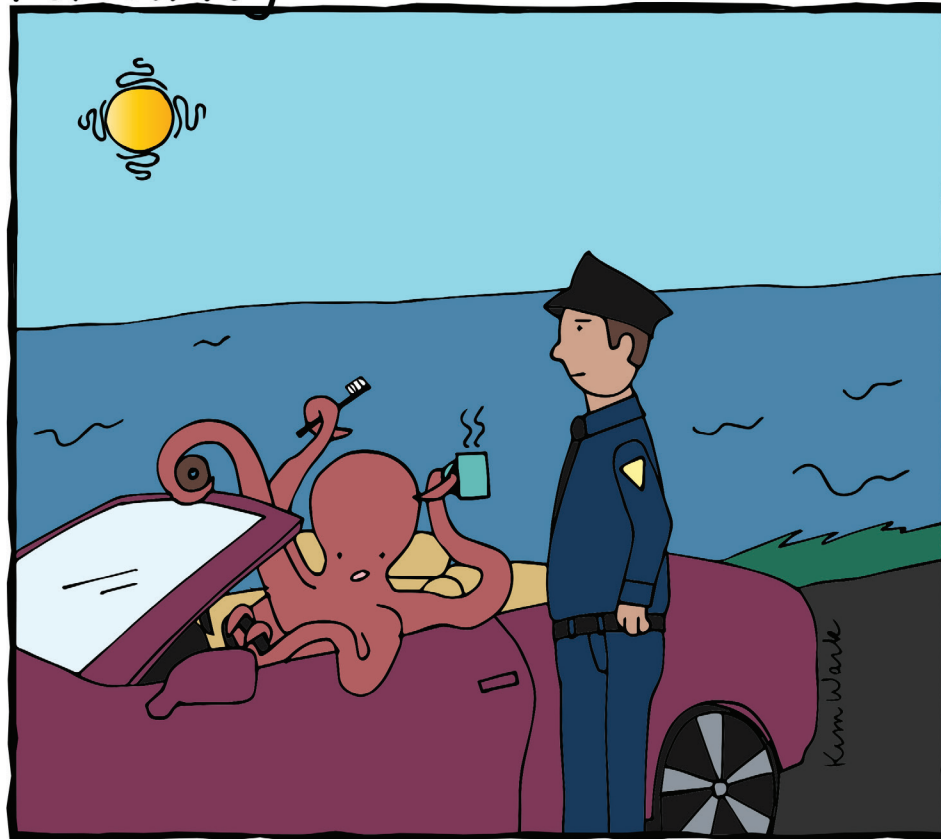
**EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

did not know these men personally, I have read and listened to countless stories about them. When I am driving into Minden, I always drive past the iconic red Wessell barn. It's a sign that I am home. Every time. When I attend Rotary events in Haliburton; the immense amount of contributions they give back to the community, I know that is a legacy of Curry Bishop. These are the colourful characters of our county, and they will be remembered.

As for Mike, his presence won't soon be forgotten. There's a hole in the county that cannot be filled.

But what I do know is that if my kids ever start playing hockey, I will buy every single one of those kids a slushie after each and every game.  
For Mike.

## Kwarky



"What, officer? I've got two hands on the wheel."

## Field dressed

**U**P UNTIL recently I never knew that my partner Jenn was the jealous type. This unexpected discovery revealed itself on the weekend when I told her I was going to town to do a bit of Christmas shopping.

"You're not wearing that, are you?" she said.

The "that" she was referring to, was my new late season duck hunting parka – a stylish, shapeless little number elegantly decked out in Tru Timber camo DRT which is all the rage this year on the runways of Milan, Paris, New York and Tokyo, if the salesperson at the sporting goods store is to be believed.

And, let me just say, I have no reason to suspect she lied to me.

When I asked Jenn what was wrong with what I was wearing, she just shook her head and mumbled under her breath. Fortunately, we have been together long enough for me to be able to decode what she was thinking.

Roughly translated, it was: "Gadzooks man! Don't you know that the average woman cannot resist a man in a camouflaged duck hunting parka! Especially if that man is on top of the latest camouflage trends that are being showcased on the runways of Milan, Paris, New York and Tokyo! If you go out on the town dressed so temptingly, women will look at you like a dog looks at a pork chop."

Sensing this, I replied, "Don't be ridiculous! It's not as if I am wearing neoprene waders!"

And then I walked out the door.

Call me a dreamer, but I have more faith in the modern woman than that. After all, we live in an era where we are all trying our best to be respectful of each other.

Unfortunately, it turned out Jenn was right. Though I as a man should be able to wear anything I want, it appeared that my new duck hunting camo parka was a little too on fleek, as the kids say.

I suppose it was the blocky shape that caused the issue. For, women are nothing if not cerebral. And, let's be honest here, a blocky shaped item of outerwear leaves practically everything to the imagination. I could just tell what those gawking women I passed by were thinking. Is he wearing a duck call lanyard too? Is his shirt camouflaged? Rodeo belt buckle? These were the

questions that were probably going through their minds.

I didn't want to believe this. But the woman in the fancy store I went to (I won't name drop, but let's just say they actually wrap the beef jerky in that establishment) looked at me for far too long before doing exactly the thing Jenn did. Yes, she also shook her head and mumbled under her breath. And then, as if that was not enough, she also palm-slapped her forehead.

Between you and me, almost every woman in the store displayed the same reaction. It almost caused me to blush.

Instead, I decided to maintain my dignity. So I unzipped my coat a little more, so there was less to imagine. And then I walked out of that store with my head held high. And I drove directly home where Jenn was waiting.

"That was quick," she said.

"Yes," I replied curtly, as I hung up my coat.

"Your camo parka was inappropriate, right?" she asked.

"Yes," I said. "Lesson learned."

And then I put on my hunter orange deer hunting parka and set out once again.

**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35



# IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

## Winds of change

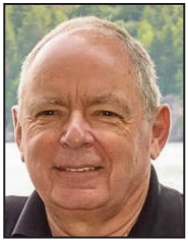
**T**HE WIND off the lake is furiously slapping the flag on the pole anchored in the little flower patch out front my place.

There's nothing noteworthy about a flag moving in the wind. Except that it seems to be happening more often these days.

My flag is seldom still, even in the evenings when you expect it to be still. It often flaps during the night, waking me on occasion.

There's no official data on whether we are experiencing more windy days, but we do know that wind speeds have been increasing. Researchers report that the global average wind speed has increased six per cent – from 7.0 to 7.4 miles per hour – since 2010.

Increased wind can be bad news. It can cause visible damage such as fallen trees and damaged buildings. There are other less visible, but serious, implications such as soil erosion and water evaporation.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

The good news about more frequent, stronger winds is that we finally realize wind is an important energy alternative to pollution-producing fossil fuels.

It took us a long time. American naturalist Henry David Thoreau realized it almost 200 years ago, writing:

"Here is almost incalculable power at our disposal, yet how trifling the use we make of it! It only serves to turn a few mills, blow a few vessels across the ocean, and a few trivial ends besides. What a poor compliment do we pay to our indefatigable and energetic servant!"

Today, using wind to make electricity is a growth industry. The wind power market is up an estimated 14 per cent in the past 10 years.

The Global Wind Energy Council has reported record growth in the last two years. But the council says the industry is not growing fast enough to meet climate change goals set by governments.

It is not that there is not enough wind. The challenge is harnessing and distributing it.

The International Energy Agency says there is enough offshore wind to produce all the world's future electrical power needs 11 times over. However, we don't yet have ways of harnessing offshore winds and distributing the electricity they produce from miles out in the ocean to land-based power grids.

Wind energy may help reduce fossil fuel use and its environmental impacts. It does have its own environmental problems, however.

Environmentalists are concerned about the noise created by wind turbine blades. They also worry about visual aesthetics – wind farms spoiling views of beautiful landscapes. Large wind turbines are visible for 15 to 20 miles in clear and relatively flat areas.

Birds and bats flying into turbine blades is another problem. Joel Merriman, a wind specialist working with the American Bird Conservancy, says that 1.17 million birds are killed each year by wind turbines in the United States.

There is not much evidence to show harm to other wildlife, or to humans living near wind turbines. Some people believe that low-level turbine noise results in headaches, irritability, fatigue, dizziness, tinnitus and even more serious health problems.

There also is concern that with the growing number of wind turbines some could end up in locations that interfere with radar systems. These systems are widespread across North America, and are important tools in air traffic control, weather forecasting and national air defence.

Numerous studies are being conducted to document any serious negative effects of wind energy, and how they might be mitigated. Finding turbine sites where good wind energy can be produced with minimal impacts on wildlife, humans or radar systems is a key part of that research.

It might all come down to having to accept some negative effects in exchange for a less polluted world and the increased destruction expected from continued global warming.

Environmental activist David Suzuki accepts that bird and bat kills are a part of creating necessary alternative energy.

"Global warming will kill birds and bats, as well as other species, in much greater numbers than wind power," he has said.

There's a lot of thinking and work to be done to sort all this out. Thankfully, none of it has to be done by me.

On nights when the wind blows hard, threatening to keep me awake, I'll simply lower the flag.

### letters to the editor

## Invasive species in Haliburton County lakes

Dear MPP Laurie Scott,

Minden/Haliburton's five lake chain and Drag Lake, among others, need help with invasive species which are growing at an alarming and dangerous rate.

Tourism and taxation depend on healthy, rural ecosystems.

If the lakes are plugged with Eurasian Milfoil, not only will tourists and locals not enjoy their lakes, property values will fall and local governments will be unable to meet their responsibilities. Jobs and communities will suffer.

The Auditor General's report agrees that

Ontario needs to do more to combat invasive species.

Invasive species grow logarithmically, and so delay not only compounds harm, but also compounds the eventual cost of mitigation and eradication.

Please be our advocate. Please coordinate with treasury, finance, tourism and environment ministries to give this early and high priority.

Please let me know if you agree to advocate effectively on this issue within cabinet.

**Paul Zalan,  
Minden**



### Tompkins celebrated for 20 years of dedication

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Hospital Foundation (HHHSF) board and staff, along with members of the Haliburton Hospital board enjoyed a retirement lunch this past Thursday at Rhubarb for Lisa Tompkins, HHHSF Executive Director. Lisa is retiring after twenty years as both a board member and most recently as the Executive Director of the Hospital Foundation. From left Carol Patrick HHHSF treasurer, Lisa Tompkins, Eric Recalla HHHSF Chair, Carol Simmons HHHSF staff, Melanie Klodt-Wong incoming Executive Director of the Hospital Foundation. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

### HCPL's Book of the Week



Hockey Moms chronicles the challenges and joys of a diverse group of parents whose behind-the-scenes efforts help to support their children as they navigate the world of competitive sports. Author Theresa Bailey (who hails from Madoc, Ontario), found that she initially resisted the label of "Hockey Mom" and all of the stereotypes that come with it. But as a mother of three hockey players, she found herself immersed in the culture, coming up against its politics and challenges. Realizing that there were no resources or support networks for the parents, she put her background in community psychology to work, building an engaged and encouraging community, and ultimately embracing the title "Hockey Mom."

Her book, co-written with former CTV sportscaster Terry Marcotte, shares the stories of 30-plus hockey moms with warmth, honesty, and humour. On the heels of the Hockey Canada scandal, this book is an inspiring window into the way that the sports community can be. Available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.





Trumpeter Swans have been spotted in Gull Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Boshkung Lake and Moore Falls, where they spend the winter. /Photos submitted by Ed Poropat

At one point, Trumpeter Swans were near extinction. Due to diligent care and preservation, they started being spotted in the Minden area in 2013, and have been observed nearly every year since.

# The Trumpeters have returned

by **CLEM GROB**  
*Special to the Times*

Each year, residents of Haliburton and Minden have the chance of seeing the majestic Trumpeter Swan – but it hasn't always been this way.

Historically, Trumpeter Swans were an abundant species across Ontario, until intensive hunting and harvesting in the 1800's brought populations down tremendously. In 1886, the last Trumpeter Swan in Ontario was shot at Long Point, and just like that, Trumpeter Swans were an extirpated species.

The introduction of the Migratory Bird Act of 1918 enforced protection of these birds in their remnant populations in the U.S., which had dwindled down to a critically endangered population of less than 70 individuals in the wild. Thanks to reintroduction efforts, the populations have since been increasing and returning to their historical range, including Alaska and Western Canada.

However, in the late 1900's, Ontario still lacked the majestic Trumpeter that it once had; they had not returned here. Ontario began efforts to reintroduce the Trumpeter Swan in 1982, starting with Alaskan eggs. These eggs were hatched and offspring were raised in large ponds until 1988, when they were ready to breed. They were then taken to Wye Marsh in Midland, Ontario to begin breeding in the wild.

After several years of efforts and waiting for offspring to reach maturity, the first female offspring successfully returned to Wye Marsh in 1993 to nest in the wild. This female was known as "Pig Pen", and she nested for many years at

Wye Marsh, with at least 70 known descendants (and likely closer to 200).

Thanks to Pig Pen and other reintroduced Trumpeter Swans, Ontario's population has increased to about 3,000 birds, and their conservation status has returned to "Least Concern" after over 100 years.

Ed Poropat, a retired biologist in Haliburton county has been watching the return of Trumpeter Swans to the county since their reintroduction to Ontario. "We went from seeing one or two birds 10 years ago to 25 in Sandy Bay the other day," Poropat said. "2013 was a boom year, and the first year we had them on our Christmas bird count," he added, "they've returned to the area most years since then".

Trumpeter Swans are typically seen in the colder months, overwintering near river mouths where the water doesn't freeze over. Some local traditional wintering areas for Trumpeter Swans include Gull Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Boshkung Lake and Moore Falls, where Poropat has seen birds spend the winter.

Poropat suspects that some of these birds are not only overwintering, but also breeding in the county. Although summertime breeders have not been documented in the area yet, he suggests that "the high proportion of young, untagged Trumpeters seen in the region begs the question that there are some [year-round] local birds." The breeding season is also a time of year when the birds can be very elusive and protective of their nest.

If you are eager to see Trumpeter Swans, beware of their other similar looking white swans. If you see a large white bird with an orange beak, it is a Mute Swan. "Mute swans

are really rare here, one bird overwintered for several years at Green Lake in Guilford in the 1980's," Poropat said.

Another look-alike is the Tundra Swan, which has more subtle differences to the Trumpeter Swan; both of which are white birds with black beaks. Tundra Swans have a small yellow spot in the corner of their eye, and the top of their head has a slightly concave profile. Trumpeter Swans are larger, and their head has a flat profile. According to Poropat, Tundra Swans are a rarity as well; "last fall was the first time to see a Tundra Swan in Haliburton county," he said. This was a single bird that overwintered with a flock of Trumpeters.

Despite the return of Trumpeter Swans to the county, populations are still recovering and continue to be protected. One of the leading causes of death to Trumpeter Swans is lead poisoning from fishing equipment, including sinkers that the birds mistake for pebbles and consume.

Excess carbohydrates in the diet is thought to cause Angel Wing syndrome, where the flight feathers develop incorrectly and deems the bird flightless for life, posing as another threat to Trumpeter Swans. "Anglers should be mindful of using lead tackle, and avoiding feeding the birds, especially bread" said Poropat.

Poropat encouraged residents to document any Trumpeter Swan sightings on eBird, a free site that can be accessed at <https://ebird.org/submit>. Some Trumpeter Swans have yellow wing tags with a three letter code that can be documented with their sighting. By recording this information, residents add to a large dataset that helps researchers track the recovery of Trumpeter Swans throughout Ontario.

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## Ready for rink time

The Dawson Hamilton Memorial Skating Rink has been set up once again at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. According to Shannon Kelly, Manager of Cultural Services for the Township of Minden Hills, the rink is scheduled to open in early-January, pending weather conditions. Photo from the first rink set-up on the property, in Jan. 2019. / EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



# Community comes together to remember Iles

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

Whether at home, at work, at sports games, or at the hunt camp, Mike Iles was an outstanding leader, friend, and family member; someone everyone could turn to for a solution to a problem and a for a calming, stable presence.

He loved many, and showed it through his actions.

He was husband to Wendy, father to Chris and Tessa, and grandfather to Joe, “the light of his life.”

“He just loved the community,” Chris said. “He knew everybody. He just loved being there for people, being there for his neighbours, being there for people he knew.”

Mike passed away at age 61 on Saturday, Nov. 26 “after a very courageous battle with lung cancer,” read his obituary. “He fought hard to the end.”

The Haliburton community mourned Mike on Friday, Dec. 1 where countless stopped by the Dysart Fire Hall or at a reception held at the AJ LaRue Arena to pay their respects to his family.

Mike’s most recent job was chief at the Dysart Fire Department. He was hired as chief in 2016 after working as a volunteer firefighter since 1993.

“He really found his calling as chief,” said Chris.

Before that, he worked as service manager and part-owner at Curry Motors.

Andy Salvatori had been friends with Mike since they were in Grade 1, both attending Victoria Street School in Haliburton and then Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

They went on to co-own Curry Motors along with Don Popple.

Mike’s desire to help and loyalty to those he loved is what Salvatori will remember most.

“He was a very loyal guy to everybody that was his friend, his family. He was always there to help. If you needed help, he would be there,” Salvatori said.

Both Salvatori and Popple said Mike’s calm demeanor and ability to problem solve was crucial to helping things run



Mike Iles was a well-respected leader during his time as fire chief of the Dysart Fire Department. /FILE

smoothly at the dealership.

“I told Mike that being service manager was the hardest job in the place. You know what he said? He said, ‘I can do it.’ And he did. He did an incredible job. You never had to ask him to do anything twice,” Popple said.

The same can be said about how Mike led the fire department.

Chris has been a volunteer firefighter with the Dysart department since 2011, and said that one memory of his father sticks out in particular.

“He had been off, and he was in the process of getting diagnosed and figuring out what was going on. We had an extremely busy day at the firehall. We were dealing with call after call after call. One of them was a house fire.”

Chris called Mike and asked if he could work on dispatch to free up another firefighter.

“Yup, no problem,” said Mike.

At the house fire, Chris said every single person working on the scene approached him at one point that day.

“They would all say, ‘It was so good to hear your Dad’s voice today. As soon as I heard his voice on there, I knew everything was going to be okay.’ That speaks volumes to how respected he was,” Chris said.

Mike was always composed, no matter the situation.

“It’s easy to let adrenaline take over in firefighting. He never seemed to do that. He was always just calm and had a calm voice and calm demeanor,” Chris said.

This allowed Mike to make good decisions.

“He would often think outside of the box, coming up with solutions that nobody else could think of.”

On the outside, Chris said many would have seen Mike as a serious person because of his leadership roles.

“At home, he was just a huge softie,” Chris said.

As a kid, Chris played house league hockey, and he remembers his Dad coming in the changeroom with a slushy for each and every player at the end of practice.

“He was that Dad. He treated them as if they were all his own kids. He was always there and available for any of us. That was him.”

Mike loved spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, ATVing, and snowmobiling with his friends and family.

“He lived for the hunt camp and lived for the fellowship and camaraderie there,” Chris said. Like all other aspects in his life, though, Mike loved those experiences most because of the people he shared them with.

“He valued his family most in his life. He loved us all and would do anything for any of us. His friends, the firehall, Curry Motors, that was all his family, too.”

## Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2022

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders’ Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren’t sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

**Option 1:** Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

**Option 2:** Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.



**Partner in Haliburton,**

Haliburton Chrysler – 13533 Highway 118

**Partner in Minden,**

Ridgewood Ford – 12560 Highway 35



Ridgewood Ford Sales

**Other Drop off locations**

Haliburton – Cordell’s

Minden – CIBC Minden, Ommh, Minden Home Hardware, Minden Post Office, TD Bank Minden,

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**All pick ups will need to be made BEFORE December 12**

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The Abbey Gardens Holiday Market hosted dozens of local vendors and artisans, so visitors could do all their Christmas shopping in one stop. The event raised over \$10,000 for childrens' programming at Abbey Gardens. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



With hot fires keeping visitors toasty, the Abbey Gardens Holiday Market drew over 500 visitors. From left, Emily Kedar, Faye Mortell, Ryan Mortell, and John Saulnier visited from Minden to partake in the activities.

# Holiday Market sparkles at Abbey Gardens

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
*Editor*

A night of sparkle, shimmer, and shine, Abbey Gardens held their annual Holiday Market on Saturday, Dec. 3. With dozens of vendors set up in the warmth of the tent onsite, live music, festive drinks, bonfires, and holiday snacks, the event attracted over 500 visitors, and raised over \$10,000 for children’s programming at Abbey Gardens. “We are so thrilled with how the community showed up this year,” said Ashley McAllister, Director of Operations at Abbey Gardens, “everyone seemed to be having fun, the energy was great, and best of all, we are able to give back to our community with the funds we raised.” McAllister went on to thank all the volunteers, vendors, and Abbey Gardens staff who worked hard to make the event such a success.



A variety of vendors were present at the event, selling everything from candles to clothes.



Highlands Harmony Choir, led by director, Laurel McCauley, kicked off a magical evening at the Abbey Gardens Night Market on Dec. 3. The group sang classic Christmas songs such as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Jingle Bells.



All the vendors were located in the events tent onsite at Abbey Gardens. "Last year, we had people outside, but this year, everyone was able to get cozy inside." said Ashley McAllister, director of operations for Abbey Gardens.





### Minden Legion Craft Show returns

Fwin Norry of Minden was a vendor at the show, and is a member of the Minden Legion. "This used to be an annual event in the area, and this is our first year back after COVID," she said, "We are so glad that it was very steady, and very well received." /TIM YANO Special to the Times



The Minden Legion hosted a craft show for holiday shoppers on Dec. 3., with 24 artisans and vendors setting up their products for eager holiday shoppers.



Artist Rick Wilson created a series of tiny snow people to sell at the Minden Legion Craft Show. All proceeds from the table rentals from the show went back into the Minden Legion services and community support.



## Home Games

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

[WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA](http://WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA)

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Saturday, Dec 17 @ 4 p.m.  
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**Sunday, December 11 @ 4 p.m.**

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# HHSS students bring cheer to their peers

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

During the holidays, many donate wonderful gifts to food banks for families to give to younger children.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) Interact club students want to provide teens, their peers, with the same opportunity.

Interact's Teen Holiday Gift Drive is back again, and is a competition between two school teams to see which can collect the most items to put together boxes to then give to local food banks with teenagers in mind as recipients.

"This initiative is important to Interact because we care about meeting the needs of local families during the holiday season. Often, gift drives produce lots of gifts for younger children. We wanted an initiative that benefits local teens in need," said Interact member and HHSS student Annabelle Borgdorff.

Last year, the club collected enough to put together 70 boxes.

"It gets bigger every year as we have more and more community support," said HHSS teacher Christine Carr.

The idea for the initiative came from the students themselves. They want all their peers to be given the same opportunity to open a gift of things they may want or need during the holidays.

"There is definitely a need for this during the holidays, as many families cannot necessarily afford a lot for their kids of all ages, especially right now," Carr said.

The school will be collecting gift cards, hygiene items, clothing, entertainment items like books and games, and snacks until Sunday, Dec. 11.

"Interact will be putting together gift bags with the collected items. Half of these bags will be donated to the Haliburton Food Bank and the other half to the Minden Food Bank. From there, families in need are invited to pick gifts for their teens from the food banks," Annabelle said.

Community members are able to contribute by placing do-



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's Interact club put together 70 boxes for teens last year to donate to the local food banks for their Teen Holiday Gift Drive initiative. /Submitted

nations in the bin provided at the Nutcracker performances at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Dec. 10 and 11.

The program will allow for teenagers in the community to enjoy gifts they might not otherwise receive, said Annabelle.

"By taking this on, [students] know they are helping their peers and friends in the school around them, and feel like they are making a difference in their own community," Carr said. "It is a cause they are passionate about, so they get to take the lead and work to make a difference."



Abby Greenwood presents the themes depicted in her piece called *Animism* on the West Coast during the opening of HHSS's annual student exhibition.



Kayla Switzer explains the process of creating her painting, *No Response*, to a crowd during the opening of HHSS's annual student exhibition at Rails End Gallery in Haliburton called *Forgotten*. The exhibit runs until Dec. 17. Visit [railsendgallery.com/f/forgotten](https://railsendgallery.com/f/forgotten) to read the students' artist statements. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

## HHSS art students present *Forgotten*

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) Grade 12 art students started with one word, and ended with an art exhibition.

*Forgotten* is the name of this year's HHSS student art exhibition at Rails End Gallery.

The art class puts on an exhibit each year, but it was put on pause for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's really nice to be able to do this because we haven't been able to do these things in the last couple of years," said their teacher, Karen Gervais. "I think students have a lot to say, and to have their voice shared with the community and

make their work visible is really important to sharing that expression."

Gervais remarked that the students learned art online for the past two years.

"It's wonderful to be back here in person and have the opportunity to share our work," Gervais said.

Grade 12 student Colleen Petric enjoyed the newness of putting together an exhibit from concept to finish.

She said many of the students used different mediums, which created a variety among the pieces.

"There's watercolour, acrylic, charcoal, there's a sculpture, lots of us used different mediums. We enjoyed putting together the exhibit and having a new experience," Colleen said.

To come up with the theme, *Forgotten*, students were asked

to come up with ten images that inspired them in some way.

"We played some collaborative games with responding to each other's images," Gervais said.

During that process, they wrote down and explored words and themes related to the images.

"We had seen a lot of images with nostalgia or that were vintage or in states of decay, so it seemed to be a really suiting word for the title of our exhibition," Gervais said.

The exhibit at Rails End Gallery in Haliburton runs until Dec. 17. Visit [railsendgallery.com/f/forgotten](https://railsendgallery.com/f/forgotten) to read the artist statements from each student.

"This is a huge accomplishment for these artists that really challenged themselves," Gervais said.



# The happiness season

THERE'S BEEN push-back against the GDP, the Gross Domestic Product, being the measure of goodness. Because, among other criticisms, it means that spending money, no matter for what reason, is good for society. By that measure, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill that defiled the Gulf of Mexico was a marginally better contributor to the economy than the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off the Alaska coast.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) twigged to the inadequacy, even idiocy, of this spending-is-good-no-matter-for-what stance and in 2009 developed an alternate framework for measuring well-being. It was informed by an international meeting in 2005 at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, in which a contingent from the small country of Bhutan shared learnings from their then 33-year foray into using happiness as a measure of well-being. The three pillars of their approach to the change process seem eerily appropriate to the current Canadian scene: they prioritized cultural traditions, environmental protection and maintaining responsible government.

Our approach to managing Covid-19 broke all three of these Bhutanese pillars: it upended almost every cultural tradition, messed with environmental protection and challenged responsible governance. It left a post-pandemic world that is having trouble finding its happiness.



**FAY MARTIN**  
*Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder*

I needed a quick-n-dirty definition of happiness to think this through. Heather McLeod, in episode 2.4 of her podcast *Something Different This Way Comes*, interviews Paul Berger, an assistant prof in education at Lakehead University, who offered, as scientifically proven knowledge, that happiness has these four components: *connecting, acting, learning, giving*. That is

not the only recipe for happiness out there, but it fits my experience so well that I have written the four aspects in bold black on a sticky note at eye level from my desk chair.

COVID-19 disrupted every aspect of happiness. We became disconnected, unable to see family and friends. Our actions were constrained; we hunched over our devices, binge-watched Netflix, pillaged our fridges. We were confused by waves of complex information, learning and unlearning and relearning. Those we desperately wanted to

give to were often unavailable, cloistered for their safety, shrivelling to nothingness in their abandonment. Or – this happened too – the giving tank was empty.

We are now creaking through the process of adapting our cultural traditions to accommodate the hard truth that not only the Covid family, but all its relatives, past and future, are our companions going forward. And that all the medicine in the world is not apt to deliver the security to health and well-being that we previously took for granted – because we didn't realize, privileged society that we are, how rare and tenuous a security that was. It is a smack upside the head that approximates the impact on prior generations of the Great Depression (although that lasted ten years, to the paltry two and counting of Covid) and the two Great Wars (also a sum of ten years, not counting the before, after and elsewhere side-events).

But the next wave of change -- economic downturn, looming recession, inflation sneaking its hand into our pockets, debate and dissention about the proper management of recovery and our cultural renovation -- will likely stretch to ten years. We should use the time as well as we can.

Intellectual Paul Ralston Saul said in the 2005 meeting in Antigonish, 'It's ideas which determine the directions in which civilizations go. If you don't get your ideas

right, it doesn't matter what policies you try to put in place.' We need to put a definition of happiness (this or any other) at the centre of our intent. Dr. Ronald Colman, research director for the Canadian Index of Well-being, and the Nova Scotian who organized the meeting, noted that GDP does not recognize the value of volunteer work in community building (and as a means of achieving happiness, using the definition I've adopted). We don't need to be hired to do the work we want to do; rather, it's up to 'them' to stop us if our efforts are unwelcome. Dr. Alan B. Kreuger, a Princeton economist, confirmed the importance of individual contribution: 'We should not be hoping to construct a Utopia. What we should be talking about is piecemeal movement in the direction of things that make for a better life.'

My conclusions on re-jigging our culture: Don't wait for 'them' to do it for you; grasp the thistle and do it yourself (acting), in concert with those whose interest coincide (connecting), figuring it out as you go along (learning), and making your little corner of the world a better place (giving). Happy Happiness this giving season.

*Fay Martin is a retired social worker whose memoir, Dementia Widow, is nearing completion.*

## Introducing PressReader

by **CHRIS STEPHENSON**  
*Special to the Times*

At Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL), we often launch new programs and services, but our staff are always researching and testing new digital resources for the community. Thanks to a strong provincial connection between Ontario libraries, many of the platforms we purchase are affordable and made possible by consortium buying power. In other cases, we use data and feedback from our patrons to make choices for additional special e-Resources we may be able to purchase on our own. This season, we're excited to launch PressReader, which gives our library members access to more than 7,000 of the world's top newspapers and magazines. You can read the latest editions as soon as they're available on shelves, at the library or right at home.

The library of the future will always acquire and maintain a physical collection. Don't worry, in a country replete with trees, we hear all the time about how much people appreciate reading books made from paper. Our collection is valued by everyone who visits the library and it's regarded as one of our greatest assets. But we also know that many library users choose to engage with the library online. We think of our website as a 'virtual branch,' as it is a portal to some enormous specialty collections also available to our patrons. For example, you can access over 30,000 films and documentaries on Kanopy, a streaming video platform. Over 90,000 eBooks and audiobooks are available through the Libby app, along with 4,000 magazines. All just by signing up for an HCPL library card at your preferred branch. And then by going to [haliburtonlibrary.ca](http://haliburtonlibrary.ca) in your browser.

Now with the launch of PressReader, available at HCPL, you'll be able to read full-colour digital copies of popular national Canadian newspapers. As well as dozens of current newspapers in every province across Canada – all from your personal device. You can read worldwide news, too, such as *The Guardian* or catch up on the business section of *Newsweek* if you want. And the collection that's distributed on the PressReader platform includes content available in more than 60 languages. Remarkably, it's possible to apply instant translation in up to 18 different languages for most articles.

Our library branches are PressReader 'hotspots,' so anyone using the free wi-fi in our physical facilities will have instant



**Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) has launched PressReader, available at HCPL, where digital copies of popular national Canadian newspapers can be readily accessed, all from a hand-held device. /Photo submitted**

access to this new content without having to log in. From home, however, you're able to log in to the PressReader app with your library card number and enjoy everything from the *Cape Breton Post* to *Rolling Stone* magazine. The powerful thing about PressReader is that if you don't have Internet access at home, you can download all issues for offline reading. There is no limit on the number of downloads you may want to do, and you can save and keep what you're interested in indefinitely. PressReader also allows you to bookmark articles for future reading.

The PressReader app is free to download to your personal device, and it's available from the Apple App Store, Google Play Store, or Microsoft App Store. But you can also find and use PressReader.com in your web browser.

If you're already familiar with the library's Libby app, you know that you can read eBooks with some important built-in accessibility features, such as specialized font to aid Dyslexic readers, and a compatibility with screen readers. PressReader

is similarly designed with accessibility in mind. In addition to screen reader compatibility, you can read text with adjustable font sizes, or choose to view a single article, as opposed to having the full page of a newspaper appear on your screen. You can read items in the collection in page view or text view: this focuses on the content of only the articles and leaves out the advertising parts of the paper. On your screen you will scroll through the digital pages just as you would if you were turning the pages of newsprint.

For the past couple decades, a digital collection is one of the fastest growing areas of most public libraries. At HCPL we're proud of the fact that our community members are able access many of the resources usually found in medium and large urban centres. This is often because the cost of a platform's subscription is determined by the population size of a region or based on the number of membership holders in a library system. HCPL falls within a criteria range that makes our collections budget go a little farther in some cases.

If you and your family members like to stay informed about what's happening anywhere in the world, you are going to enjoy having access to PressReader access. Please spread the word about this new offering! As I mentioned at the beginning, we use statistical recordkeeping to help make decisions about what we subscribe to on an ongoing basis.

Generally, high usage of any digital platform helps us justify the annual cost and make good use of our resources. So, we hope PressReader will be valued by you as much as it has been at the library already, given some of the feedback we've received.

And as always, our staff are standing by to help you understand how PressReader works. The same goes for any of the e-Resources in our digital library collection. We realize not everyone may know what an 'app' is, or how you can connect to our wi-fi when visiting the library. Fortunately, we're in the question answering business and we like to help. So please stop by one of our library branches this season and find out more about how you can access our quickly growing digital collections. At HCPL, there's definitely something for everyone!

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Howling for the holidays

The Haliburton County Huskies team met with community members and Santa during Huskies Santa Day hosted by Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Limited in Haliburton on Wednesday, Nov. 30. The event featured a meet and greet, autograph signing, photos with Santa, and donations were collected for the local food banks. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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SUDOKU

8		5		4				7
							2	
			2					5
4			7	8			2	5
		6	3	9				6
		4	8		7			
				6		7		2
6	9					1		

Level: Intermediate

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Answers on page 16



Huskies Santa Day brought big smiles to Ella, left and Brooke Gooley on Wednesday, Nov. 30.



Kids had the chance to meet the Haliburton County Huskies and get autographs from players .



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### We are the champions

The Walker's Heating and Cooling U13 Rep Highland Storm hockey team took home the championship on Nov. 28 at last weekend's Wasaga Beach Silver Stick qualifier. The team now progresses onto the International Finals in Forest this January. Way to go Storm! /Submitted



## Announcing the Highlands Opera Studio 2023 Season

Join us for the 17th season of Highlands Opera Studio (HOS). Highlights include Gaetano Donizetti's hilarious opera sitcom, *The Elixir Of Love* (*l'Elisir d'Amore*) and the return of *Mishabooz's Realm*, an Indigenous opera inspired by and written in Haliburton County by Cree First Nation composer/creator, Andrew Balfour, originally produced and presented in 2017 by HOS in collaboration with l'Atelier lyrique de l'Opera de Montreal. This powerful and important work, commissioned by HOS in the same year, was supported in its initial creation and premiere presentations in Haliburton and Montreal by the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage.

**Richard Margison Master Classes**  
Jul. 27, 28, 29, 7:30 p.m.  
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

8	2	5	9	4	3	6	1	7
7	4	1	6	5	8	3	2	9
3	6	9	2	7	1	4	8	5
9	7	8	4	1	6	2	5	3
4	3	2	7	8	5	9	6	1
1	5	6	3	9	2	8	7	4
2	1	4	8	3	7	5	9	6
5	8	3	1	6	9	7	4	2
6	9	7	5	2	4	1	3	8

Hear the 2023 HOS professional singers sing for our Artistic Director and Master Voice Teacher, Richard Margison, O.C., and listen in on what makes great singing even better.

#### Concerts:

- *Opera to Broadway*, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church.
- *Celebrations!*, Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, featuring music marking important musical anniversaries and achievements.
- *Pop Goes the Opera*, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, featuring great operatic & musical theatre selections including music of Giuseppe Verdi marking the 210th anniversary of his birth
- *Homecoming!*, Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church. Welcome past HOS participants in an evening of reminiscence and great singing.

#### Operas:

- *Mishabooz's Realm*, Aug. 17, 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton. Experience this powerful and moving work combining opera with Indigenous singers and instrumentalists, created for HOS by Cree First Nation composer/creator, Andrew Balfour. *Mishabooz's Realm* takes us on a journey from an Indigenous perspective through Creation, Colonization, and ultimately Hope for the Future.
  - *The Elixir of Love* (*l'Elisir d'Amore*), Aug. 24, 26, 28, at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Lights Pavilion. One of the best loved – and most regularly performed – of all Donizetti's operas, this two-act romantic comedy follows the fortunes of poor villager, Nemorino, who is in love with wealthy, beautiful heiress, Adina. A hilarious sitcom for all ages! (In Italian, with English subtitles) This production is dedicated to the memory of Craig Saunders.
- Events:**
- *Why Choose Opera?*, Jul. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Abbey Gardens Performance Tent. Hear the 2023 participants sing their personal favourite music – other than opera – and talk about what brought them to opera.

• *Music on the Water*, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. Launch your boat on a lake TBD in Haliburton County for a beach concert of opera, musical theatre, and pop! Want it to be your lake? CONTACT US! [info@highlandsoperastudio.com](mailto:info@highlandsoperastudio.com)

• *Casual Song Soiree*, Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church for an evening featuring songs of all kinds in a relaxed atmosphere.

"As we prepare for the 17th season of Highlands Opera Studio, we are excited to be working on new and creative ways to share and celebrate the beauty of the un-amplified human voice with Haliburton County through Pay-What-You-Can Community Events, online singing lessons through the Highlands Opera Community School, our newly established year round Opera Club, multiple concerts & masterclasses, and two fully staged-operas. Not only will we be offering a Full Live 2023 Summer Season featuring Canada's most accomplished young professional operatic artists but, through the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we will be offering digital viewing options and special community events for our 2023 ticket holders. Join us to listen, learn, reawaken your senses, and celebrate together. Looking forward to seeing you at the opera!" – Valerie Kuinka, General Director and Co-Artistic Director & Richard Margison, Co-Artistic Director of Highlands Opera Studio

Highlands Opera Studio is extremely grateful for the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), RBC Foundation, BMO Financial Group, Azrieli Foundation, and Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), along with a generous bequest from the estate of Madame la Juge, Anne-Marie Trahan, and our greatly appreciated community of private donors and sponsors. To purchase tickets and for more information on all HOS activities, please visit [www.highlandsoperastudio.com](http://www.highlandsoperastudio.com), there is greatly reduced holiday pricing until Jan. 20, 2023. For more information, contact HOS Box Office Manager and Opera Club Director, Corina Mansfield: [info@highlandsoperastudio.com](mailto:info@highlandsoperastudio.com) and/or call 1-855-455-5533

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The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce congratulates all of the nominees and winners of this year's Business & Community Achievement Awards. We would like to recognize the sponsors we worked with who made the awards possible, our Title Sponsor Heat-Line Freeze Protection Systems, and our Evening Sponsor Haliburton Chrysler. Another special thank you to our Decor sponsor ACM Designs and all of the Award Sponsors; The Highlander, Nation Wong Photography, Canoe FM, Haliburton County Development Corporation, Total Site Services, The Gaudette Family, and Fleming CREW Employment Center. Thank you to Andrea Hagarty and the Bonnie View team for their exceptional Hospitality and to local musicians Nick and Benton for their acoustic contribution to the evening.

We would like to wish all our Chamber Members and fellow community members a safe and happy holiday season.

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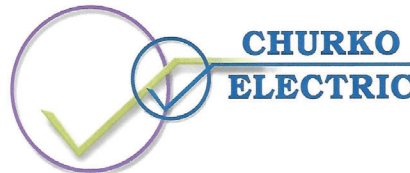
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-Lived His Dash-

**Celebration of Life**  
A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to a local charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Dave would personally like you to take some time out of your busy days and take your family, friends or anyone you care about to lunch or dinner and just talk while enjoying their company. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.  
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*from all of us at  
Haliburton Chrysler*



**2018 SUBARU WRX STI  
SPORT-TECH**

H18-907A



**\$335**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 8.99% APR, 84  
Months

65,112kms

Manual, AWD, Low Mileage, Nav

**\$39,990**

+ HST & Licensing

**2019 JEEP COMPASS  
SPORT**

H22-113A



**\$251**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 8.99% APR, 84  
Months

52,613kms

Heated Seats, Rear Cam, 4X4, Bluetooth

**\$29,800**

+ HST & Licensing

**2017 JEEP GRAND  
CHEROKEE LIMITED**

H17-904A



**\$320**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 8.99% APR, 72  
Months

104,702kms

4WD, Leather, Safety Group, Panoramic Sunroof

**\$33,998**

+ HST & Licensing

**2016 HONDA CIVIC  
COUPE TOURING**

H22-080AA



**\$208**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 8.99% APR, 72  
Months

97,772kms

Automatic, Heated Seats, Nav, Sunroof

**\$21,998**

+ HST & Licensing

**2017 RAM 1500  
LIMITED**

H19-909AA



**\$367**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 8.99% APR, 72  
Months

88,411kms

Cooled Seats, Leather, Nav, Bed Cap

**\$38,998**

+ HST & Licensing

**2015 GMC SIERRA  
1500 SLE**

H22-066B



**\$326**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 8.99% APR, 60  
Months

55,420kms

4.3L V6, 4WD, Low Mileage, No Rust

**\$29,998**

+ HST & Licensing

**2016 DODGE GRAND  
CARAVAN SE**

H22-074A



**\$156**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 9.99% APR, 72  
Months

148,903kms

Alloys, V6, Clean Carfax, Great Condition

**\$15,998**

+ HST & Licensing

**2020 JEEP COMPASS  
TRAILHAWK**

H22-032A



**\$277**

Bi-Weekly Taxes-In  
@ 8.99% APR, 84  
Months

79,836kms

Panoramic Sunroof, Leather, Nav, Tow Package

**\$32,900**

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# The Times

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Minden

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Monday, December 9, 1996

70  
70  
70



As busy as he is this time of the year, Santa Claus made a special visit to Haliburton Village Saturday afternoon. The community welcomed the celebrity with a giant parade featuring floats, music and hundreds of spectators. The jolly old man is seen above waving to the children lining the route. At the right, the children of St. George's Anglican Church portrayed the Nativity scene. For more photos from the parade, please see page 3. (Just a reminder, if you missed the Haliburton parade, Kinmount will welcome Santa to that community December 15. Parade time is 2 p.m.)



## Warden to be elected Tuesday Another term for Fearrey?

Unless a surprise candidate emerges at the Haliburton County Warden's Inaugural Session December 17 at county council chambers, current warden Murray Fearrey is expected to serve for another term.

Nobody has officially declared a candidacy for the office. A quick poll of a number of county councillors Saturday revealed that Fearrey is favoured to serve a second consecutive term.

"It's sort of an accepted fact that Murray would take a second term," said councillor Jim McMahon. "I'm in favour, for the sake of continuity."

"That's why I ran for a second term," he said. "It certainly wasn't for the glory of wearing the chain of office. You just seem to get started and the year is over."

McMahon ran unsuccessfully for a second consecutive term as warden two years ago.

Anson, Hindon and Minden reeve Jeanne Anthon says she also expects to support Fearrey's bid.

"I have had some dialogue with the current warden and I am supporting his reelection... I feel he has been very strong in his position. He's had the courage to initiate intensive discussions on restructuring, and I feel he's determined to achieve some effective results for the county."

"I think the stability at this time is important. We are still in the process of a very critical restructuring and economic decisions, and I feel it's critical that he stay on in that position to see us through. I feel the process could be jeopardized to some extent by any kind of change."

Cardiff Reeve Thomas Elliott says he feels it's a little early to commit himself to supporting Fearrey's re-election to the top post, but that he has generally been pleased with the current warden's leadership.

Says Elliott, "I think he's done a good job. There are people who don't seem to be satisfied

(more on page 2)

## Youth drop in centre opens

Photo on page 5

An outreach centre aimed, in part, at keeping youngsters off the street opened in the former IGA building in Minden last week. The Reverend Judith Merritt, who runs the centre, says there does seem to be a demand for the service.

"We had 125 people through here in the first six days we were open, so yes, I think there is a need... It's just supposed to be a place where kids — we're thinking 17 and under — can come instead of being out there," she said, referring to the street.

The organization behind the centre, Put the Word Into Action Ministries, is an ecumenical charitable organization.

The centre's opening was supported by the local Legion branch, which donated \$500 to the cause, and by the Rotary Club of Minden, which is offering operational funds to help keep the service running.

Said Rotary president Barry Cray, "We're glad to see someone doing something, and we hope people get to know it's here, that there's somewhere to go, instead of into the streets. And we're hoping that the community will catch on, and support this, because it does deserve support."

Merritt thanked Cray and Legion president Maurice Winterflood for their assistance in starting the venture.

Merritt says the centre will provide board games and plans to organize activities such as bible studies and video nights.

Providing an activity centre for Minden's street kids was an issue briefly during the last municipal election, when local candidates were asked whether council would take some initiative in solving the problem. Council is waiving licensing fees for gaming equipment (a pool table) at the centre.

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### North Pigeon Lake \$775,000

- 3 bedroom / 1 bathroom, 900 SqFt
- Fully Winterized, Newly Built Bunkie
- Large Updated Windows Overlooking Lake
- Breathtaking Sunrise Views



Adele Barry  
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### Haliburton Home \$899,000

- 3 Beds, 3 Baths, 2100+ Sq Ft
- 2.3 Acres, 3 Season Screened Porch
- Beautiful View of Barnum lake
- New 24x40 Detached Heated Shop



Dagmar Boettcher\*\*  
457-5968

### Hunter Creek Rd \$975,000

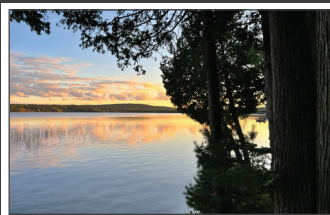
- Class B licensed pit & quarry
- 88 acres close to Minden
- Potential to sever lots



Andy Campbell  
854-0292

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- To appreciate the expanse of 98 acres
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- Put The Boat In, Go Fishing Or Tour 3 Lk Chain
- Walk 2 West Guilford 4 Store, Restaurant, Lcbo



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### Haliburton Condominium \$699,900

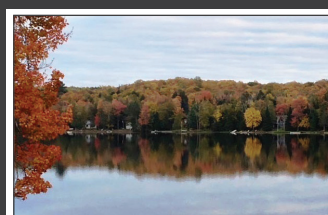
- 1236 Sq Ft, 3rd Flr, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, A/C
- Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
- Head Lake (5 Lake Chain), Move-in Ready
- Underground Parking, Close to Walking Trails



Tom Ecclestone\*  
286-2138 x 226

### Minden Home \$399,000

- 2 Beds / 1 Bath, 700+ Sq Ft
- All New Windows, Siding, Electrical & More!
- Totally Renovated From Top to Bottom
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### Haliburton Home \$579,000

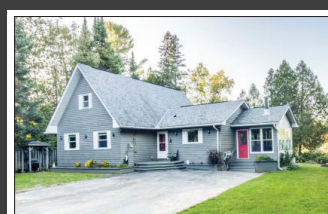
- Updated, open concept 3 bedrooms bungalow
- Full basement w/ high ceilings to finish to your taste
- Spacious & private 2+ acre parcel just outside town
- Plus a large Quonset hut with separate driveway



Susanne James\* &  
Andy Mosher\*\*  
457-2128 x 133

### MISKWABI LAKE \$999,900

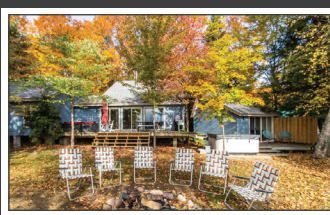
- 4-season cottage on awesome 2-lake chain
- Clean, deep, big lake view, western sunse
- Year-round Municipal road access, 20 mins from Haliburton Village



Ashley McKeigue  
705-854-1833

### Kashagawigamog Lk \$1,675,000

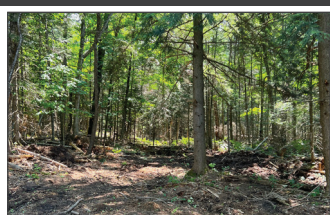
- Year-round home or cottage close to town
- 3 bedrooms, 3 baths across 3 finished levels
- 1 bedroom, 1 bath loft over new 2-car garage
- 100' of frontage with sunset exp & sand beach!



Donna McCallum\*  
455-2054

### Haliburton Lake \$1,199,900

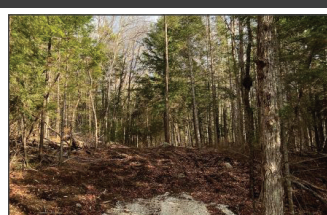
- 3 Beds / 2 Bath + Loft, 1300+ SqFt
- 100ft of Clean Frtg, Sun All Day
- Bunkie, Sauna, Lakeside Hot Tub
- 10 Mins to Fort Irwin, 20 Mins to Hali



Brandon Nimigon\*\*\*  
457-2128 x 127

### Building Lot \$238,000

- 290ft of Frtg, Close Proximity to Eagle Lk
- Nicely Treed 2.6 Acre Parcel
- Off Grid Property, Driveway Roughed In
- Abutting Properties For Sale!



Karen Nimigon\*  
457-6505

### Building Lot \$288,000

- Nicely Treed 2.4 Acre Lot in Eagle Lake
- Located Under 20 Minutes to Haliburton Village
- Currently Off Grid, Quiet Location
- 2 Abutting Parcels For Sale



Kelly Kay\*  
705-457-6841  
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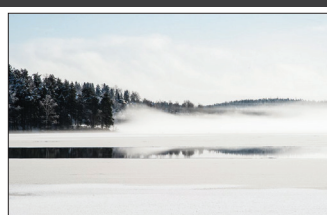
- This is the time to think about listing
- Listings Needed!
- Call today for more information



Christine Sharp\*  
705-489-9968

### Investment Opportunity! \$495,000

- 5 Bdrm/2 Bath, 2200 Sq Ft
- 1.6 Acre, Features Legal Duplex
- Desirable Area Btwn Carnarvon & Haliburton
- Many Upgrades, Needs Finishing Touches!



Greg Stamp\*  
457-2128 x 128

### Listings Wanted

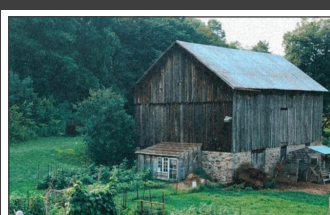
- If you're thinking of buying or selling...
- Call me today for a free evaluation!
- Happy Holidays!



Melanie Vigrass\*  
286-2138 x 232

### Bethel Road \$599,900

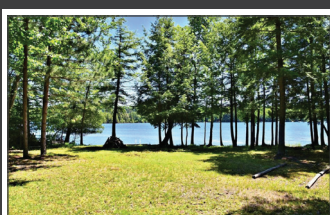
- Incredible 194-acre parcel 5 mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway- private, cleared building site
- Large frontage on picturesque Walker's Pond
- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife



Lindsay Wilkinson\*  
286-2138 x 223

### Gooderham Home \$759,900

- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom, 1400+ Sq Ft
- Sits on 2.96 Acres, Cutest Little Hobby Farm!
- Beautiful Gardens & Very Well Maintained Barn



Andrea Wilson\*\*  
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